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BRIEF CHRONICLE OF THE PAST MONTHS.

MOZART'S MASS, No. 1, and other Classical Music, has been lately performed by a promising Society at Leicester.

It is stated, that 1,300 persons were present to hear the excellent performance of the Creation, at Bristol, in the Victoria Rooms. Music is making much progress in Bristol.

It is reported, that monuments are to be erected to the memory of Bellini, at Palermo; and to Weber, at Dresden.

BIRMINGHAM.—A Musical Festival, on a very extensive scale, will be held at Birmingham, the last week in August 1846, under the direction of Mendelssohn, with whom the Committee are in communication.

WORCESTER FESTIVAL.—The collections and donations amounted together to £859 odd. The receipts will be less than the expenses by about £400: the deficiency will be made up by the stewards of the guarantee fund. The only means of continuing these interesting and old established meetings of the three choirs will be the cultivation of a good body of local choristers, a matter to which we have formerly drawn attention. It is satisfactory to hear from our correspondents that very successful beginnings towards this desired result, have been made in Gloucester, Hereford, and Worcester.

HULL SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—We are glad to find, that the practice of Choral Music is reviving in Hull. This town possessed, some fifteen years since, one of the most influential societies in England. The late performance of Deborah, was highly successful, and from the excellence of the Choral band, and the crowded state of the room, it is to be hoped that Hull will again take its proper place amongst musical towns.

THE MANCHESTER PHILHARMONIC INSTITUTE gave two Concerts early in September, which were excellent as far as the performance. It is to be regretted that they were not profitable as speculations.

THE CECILIAN SOCIETY performed Alexander's Feast, on the 25th September. It is gratifying to find this society continuing its unpretending and useful career after more than fifty seasons.

MELODY AND HARMONY.—There is not a more common anomaly than that of confounding these musical terms. By most writers they are used indifferently; and all poets, without exception, consider them as synonymous expressions. But harmony is as distinct from melody, as a combination from a succession of any visible objects. Harmony is the simultaneous union of two or more concordant sounds, while melody consists of a series of sounds so selected or arranged as to be agreeable in their effect. To talk, therefore, of an *harmonious air*, or *harmonious voice*, is to apply to the things spoken of, an epithet which has no affinity to their nature. A chorus, trio, duet, or any composition in *parts*, may be harmonious, but an air or a voice can only be melodious; the first so by virtue of the appreciable and impressive arrangement of its sounds, and the second from the beauty or sweetness of its tones, merely as such.—*Musical World*.

We are glad to see that Henry Purcell is amongst the English worthies whose statues are to adorn the new Houses of Parliament.

At the Belleville Theatre, a short time since, the opera *La Gazza Ladra* was being performed, when, in one of the most pathetic scenes, some one threw on the stage the large head of a goose, which threw the audience into loud laughter. Upon silence being restored, the actor, Cotru, advanced to the front of the stage, and said "Gentlemen, if any one amongst you has lost his head, do not be uneasy at its loss, for I will restore it to you at the conclusion of the performance."—*Musical and Dramatic Review*.

THE MANCHESTER HARMONIC SOCIETY commenced their sixth season with a very successful Concert, on the 27th October. Miss Sabilla Novello and Mr. Henry Phillips were the additions to their well trained orchestra, and effective chorus.

We have great pleasure in stating that the committee of this praiseworthy society, have lately presented Mr. Thomas Bryce, their honorary secretary, with a superb gold watch and guard, as a token of their respect; he had held the office for a period of five years, ever since the commencement of the society. The annual meeting of the society has just been held, and, it seems that the season was most successful, having increased the number of subscribers from 284 to 535; and we understand that there are at present upwards of 100 names on the books, as candidates for subscribers for the ensuing season.

BANBURY.—We are glad to find the Society, whose foundation in Banbury we recorded some two seasons ago, has continued to flourish, and by the diligent practice of its members, is enabled to afford a delightful treat to their friends at their public performances. We wish them every success in their praiseworthy efforts.

HUDDERSFIELD.—It will be seen in our advertising columns that the spirited Glee Club in this town has again offered a prize for the best serious glee.

VALUE OF SINGING.—I here introduce a fact which has been suggested to me by my profession, and that is, that the exercise of the organs of the breast, by singing, continues to defend them against those diseases to which the climate and other causes expose them. The Germans are seldom afflicted with consumption; nor have I known more than one instance of spitting blood among them. This is, I believe, in part occasioned by the strength their lungs acquire by exercising them in vocal music; for this constitutes an essential branch of their education. The music master of our academy has furnished me with an observation still more in favour of this observation. He informed me that he had known several instances of persons strongly disposed to consumption, who were restored to health by the exercise of their lungs in singing.—*Dr. Rush*.

TAUNTON.—A festival on a large scale took place on the 29th and 30th of October, on the reopening of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene. The morning performances consisted of large selections from *The Last Judgment* by Spohr, Handel's *Messiah*, and Haydn's *Creation*. Concerts at the Assembly Room each evening. The time at which we go to press prevents our giving an account of its success.